Wintry weather continues across the UK

5 December 2012 - Met Office forecasters are predicting further snow and ice for parts of the UK over the next few days.

Temperatures are expected to fall well below freezing tonight with lows down to -8 °C across parts of Scotland, making it the coldest night of the winter so far. This will bring a hard frost and a risk of ice for much of the country. During the early hours of Thursday a band of rain and strong winds will spread from the west and as it meets the cold air, rain will turn to snow in places from the Midlands northwards.

Snow is likely to be persistent and at times heavy across western Scotland where over 10 cm are expected above 400 metres or so. Further south, accumulations of snow are also likely over the Pennines and the Lake District. Temporary snow cover is forecast to lower levels in England as far south as Lincolnshire.

Met Office Chief Forecaster, Martin Young, said: "We are expecting rain, sleet and snow to affect much of the UK tonight and through Thursday morning, with significant snowfall possible across higher parts of northern Britain. With temperatures falling below freezing, lying snow and the formation of ice will lead to some treacherous conditions and disruption to travel.

"Severe weather warnings have been issued to help emergency services, local authorities and the public prepare, plan and protect the public from the impacts of the snow and icy conditions."

Scottish Transport Minister, Keith Brown, said: "We would like to remind motorists and the travelling public to be aware of the potential dangers of snow and icy conditions. An added risk is that fresh snow could fall on hard-packed ice and already treacherous surfaces, so keep up to date with live travel information and advice for preparing for and driving in testing conditions."

Sleet and snow will mostly turn back to rain during Thursday but some snow showers will remain in places with the risk of further snowfall in parts of the south east on Friday morning.

As we head into the weekend high pressure is expected to build across the UK bringing much drier weather but it will stay very cold and frosty.

The latest forecast and warnings can be found on the Met Office website, through TV and radio broadcasts and on our iPhone and Android app.

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